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"Women in Engineering" at the University of Dayton

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university of dayton

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DAYTON, Ohio, June 14, 1974 --- "Women in Engineering," a one week seminar/institute co-sponsored by local industry and the School of Engineering of the University of Dayton, begins Monday, June 17, and will introduce 42 high school girls to the field of Engineering.

The University of Dayton in conjunction with fourteen local industries, the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and the Proctor and Gamble Fund is sponsoring a one-week program.

For four days of the institute; the girls will be working in small groups with members of the University faculty to explore all aspects of the field of engineering -- research, engineering, and engineering technology. Then on Thursday, June 20, the girls will leave the campus and, as guests of the participating industries, will experience the work of engineers first hand. For the four-day campus program the faculty has designed special projects which will be on the level of junior and senior high school girls, but which will also convey engineering principles. For example, the Civil Engineering Department will introduce the girls to Civil Engineering by having them solve a simple surveying problem. The procedure requires setting up a transit, backsighting on a level rod held on a point of known elevation, and calculating the height of the transit. This procedure is then repeated until the rod held on the unknown point can be read.

It is understandable why the Civil Engineering Department is hoping that it does not rain for their Friday's session. Mr. Dan Neal of the Associated General Contractors will continue the exposure to the field of Civil Engineering by taking four girls to the Miller Valentine Corporation to observe in-office procedures and after lunch the girls will be taken to several construction sites to observe field operations.

Several departments plan to introduce the girls to uses of the computer in the field of engineering. The Electronic Engineering Technology Department plans to introduce the girls to the concepts of computer logic (Boolean Algebra) using simple everyday experiences, whereas the Industrial and Systems Engineering Department and the Industrial Engineering Technology Department plan to use a small analog computer to solve a job evaluation problem.

Each of the fourteen local industries and the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base ASD/END and 2750th ABW/DPCRT division have planned exciting and educational experiences for the girls for the fourth day of the seminar/institute. The Proctor and Gamble Fund supported the effort to encourage girls into the field of engineering with the special gift of \$1,000.

The support of these industries allowed the University to offer this program at no cost to the selected participants.

At the moment, we have 42 attendees from sixteen local high schools. There are one or two girls from the Cincinnati area who might attend one or two days of the seminar/institute.

Discussion of Special Problems

In addition to the technical aspect of the field of engineering covered by the University and local industry, there will be a panel discussion which will address the special problems that might be encountered by women who choose engineering as a career. Ms. B.K. Krenzer is coordinator for the panel discussion.

Ms. Krenzer is in charge of career guidance for the local chapter of the Society of Women Engineers and is employed by the Foreign Technology Division of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The panel will consist of the following practicing engineers: Jean Hoppert from the Cincinnati Division of Proctor and Gamble; Lynn Page, a foreman at the General Electric Aircraft Engine Group; Betty Yost, an employee of Leedex who holds several of her own patents; and Trudy Prugh from the Monsanto Research Corporation-Mound Laboratory. Mr. Harry Wright from Delco Products-Division of General Motors will relate some humorous experiences to the girls about changing the attitudes of some of his male employees. Mr. Wright has worked on the seminar/institute from its conception and has been very helpful in representing the point of view of industry.